



City of Grand Rapids, Michigan

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

ROSALYNN C. BLISS
MAYOR

May 18, 2018

The Honorable Representative Gary Glenn, Chair
House Energy Policy Committee
PO Box 30036
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7536

Dear Chairman Glenn;

I am writing to express support for the Energy Freedom package that is currently being considered by the House Energy Policy Committee. House Bills 5861-5865 will encourage more local renewable energy installations, make the electricity grid more reliable, lower energy costs and reduce the State's reliance on coal, natural gas and other fossil fuel sources.

The City of Grand Rapids has been committed to clean, renewable energy for over a decade. One of our goals is to ensure that all city facilities are powered with 100% renewable electricity by 2025. Renewable energy has become cost competitive with fossil fuel-based energy generation and it offers cleaner air for our communities while protecting our natural resources. As part of our efforts, we installed a solar array on the roof of one of our municipal facilities in 2012. We are currently evaluating opportunities to install additional solar at several of our facilities.

In addition to our own renewable energy goal, we are also one of twelve cities in the United States selected to participate in the Zero Cities Project. This project is a three-year grant program aimed at creating a policy roadmap to support our city's entire building sector, including single family homes, achieving net zero carbon by 2050. In order for our residents and businesses to achieve these goals, they must have access to affordable energy efficiency and renewable energy options.


We enthusiastically support the Energy Freedom package which will accomplish all of the following:

- *Ensure that residents, businesses and places of worship that invest in generating renewable energy receive a fair price for the energy they produce.*
- *Eliminate the cap on the number of participants able to participate in net-metering.*
- *Allow for Community Renewable Energy Gardens to allow individuals, organizations, places of worship or other businesses to leverage their renewable energy investment and energy producing potential.*

- *Provide customers the ability to generate and store onsite energy needed for their own operations with a Microgrid. We believe this is an important component of a robust renewable energy program and want to ensure that those interested in installing this type of system are able to do so.*

Thank you for your support and consideration of this important legislation. Please feel free to contact me if you wish to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rosalynn Bliss", written over a horizontal line.

Rosalynn Bliss, Mayor
City of Grand Rapids

C:/ Members of the House Energy Policy Committee